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W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items in this week's summary:

City has goal of 500 local leaders in food preservation.
Counties study post-war resettlement problems.
Home sewing instructions given to 20,000 women during year.
Junior livestock show is largest in its history.
In one county 35 farmers set 28,000 trees this spring.
Timely notes on fruit growing supplied daily to radio stations.
Two boys grow 1,500 pounds of castor-beans to the acre.

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CONNECTICUT
May 26, 1944

Farm labor.- Emergency farm labor program is passing from early planning stage into action-on-farm stage. Jamaicans and Newfoundlanders are already at work, dairy training program is on home stretch, and VEV enrollment is well started. Need for farm labor is more acute than in 1943. Shade tobacco growers' expected planting of about 1,000 more acres than last year will require additional help of approximately 800 men and women and 1,000 boys and girls. If growing season is favored with normal weather more harvest help will be needed for all crops, as 1943 yields were lowered by very dry weather in late summer and fall.

Approximately 2,000 Jamaicans are now at work on Connecticut farms, about twice as many as last year. In 1943 they were used largely on tobacco and potato farms, which are only in certain areas of State. This year they will also be used on fruit, vegetable, and dairy farms. Last year they were housed in 3 Government camps and several private camps; this year 5 Government camps and about 20 private camps. So far, 75 Newfoundlanders have arrived for work on dairy farms for duration of war. Remainder requested will arrive soon. Most are young, single men who are proving quite satisfactory to farmers. On arrival in State they are given short orientation course at university before going to farms.

Response to appeal for 1,000 high school boys and girls to enroll in VEV program is encouraging. Some early enrollees are working girls who signed for work during vacation. First seasonal job will be strawberry harvest in Bolton and Glastonbury areas. Dairy training course for nonfarm boys was given by Extension in cooperation with teachers of Vocational agriculture. Total of 150 boys enrolled. Training will continue until end of school year on farms near their homes under

supervision of vocational agriculture teachers. Week of intensive training at State university was part of course. Boys will work on dairy farms throughout summer.

Two-week training periods for Women's Land Army will be held at university. About 20 women are now enrolled, and more are expected.

Victory Gardens.- Extension vegetable specialist, who attended many of 400 to 500 garden meetings held in Connecticut this spring, has found less interest in gardens as indicated by smaller attendance at meetings. He predicts decrease in number of gardens in 1944, due largely to reduction in number of rationed foods. "Old guard" -- some 30,000 perennial gardeners -- will be on job as usual. Decrease will be chiefly among those who had garden last year for first time. More community gardens are reported in Hartford County, greater interest in home gardens in Fairfield County, and probable increase in number of industrial gardens. Norwich garden committee visited every industrial firm in city. Bridgeport, one of largest manufacturing cities in State, will also have more industrial gardens.

Circulation of "Gardengraphs," four-page Extension Service publication mailed to home gardeners each month, has increased by 7,000, bringing its total to about 20,000. Some of decreased attendance at garden meetings this spring may be attributed to fact that many first-time gardeners probably feel that extension garden publications distributed in quantity last year have given them sufficient information for their needs.

Late and very heavy frost May 18 did varying amount of damage in low spots throughout State. Greatest damage was done to home gardeners whose early, tender vegetables were not protected. Reports are also received of damage to peas, cabbages, and other home garden crops usually considered resistant to low temperatures. Strawberries are reported badly damaged. Commercial growers suffered little damage, as most of them had not planted their tender crops.

Fruit.- Again this year fruit specialist in cooperation with State experiment station is providing all radio stations in State with program of daily fruit notes. Both commercial fruit grower and home gardener are supplied with timely information particularly on control of insects and diseases. Service began May 1 and will end early in June. Freeze ruined fruit crop in a few orchards, but probably did not greatly affect total crop for State. A few growers report 100-percent loss. Fruit specialist predicts considerable russetting because of freeze.

4-H Club work.- On basis of reports from four counties, State club leader expects 4-H enrollment this year of about 9,000, slightly above total for 1943. Response to plans for 4-H Sunday, May 21, was larger than last year. Number of communities with adult 4-H committees has increased.

Most counties report considerable interest in "Feed a Fighter" campaign. In two towns, Coventry in Tolland County and Lebanon in New London County, goal is production of enough food to feed people from town in armed forces. Young people of Coventry, birthplace of Nathan Hale, are trying to show same patriotic spirit as hi

Connecticut's first 4-H leader-training conference will be held at university June 27 to 29. Program is particularly designed to give new local leaders better understanding of 4-H Club work as part of extension program, and suggestions for

improving programs of clubs they serve. One county appropriated \$100 to send its leaders to conference.

Food preservation.- Six emergency war food assistants now on duty in State will meet at State University, Storrs, for conference on 1944 food-preservation program. They will be given information on franking regulations and some history of Extension Service by Vice Director Clapp. Remainder of program will be devoted to discussion of the work and problems encountered. Emergency war food assistants are located in Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury, Stamford, and New Britain. Food-preservation information assistant is also at Hartford. Part of work of these assistants is to train local food-preservation leaders. Hartford's goal is 500 leaders for city.

Conference in Hartford in June will bring together volunteer chairmen and supervisors of community canning centers. Speakers will include representatives of can company, Office of Distribution of WFA, State OPA, State dairy and food commissioner, and bureau of markets of Connecticut Department of Agriculture. Inspection will be made of community canning equipment at State prison in Wethersfield. Purpose of 2-day conference is to train local supervisors in canning techniques, and provide volunteer chairmen with information for meeting problems.

Extension conference.- Annual conference of Connecticut Extension Service will be held June 13 to 15 at Old Lyme.

Farm and Home Day.- Farm and home program, annual event at university until interrupted by war, will be reinstated this year. Program will be 1-day instead of customary 3-day event. Morning session will be devoted to commodity group meetings. In afternoon all groups will meet together to give honorary recognition to several of State's outstanding rural people.

Sheep-dipping tank.- Portable sheep-dipping tank built by Extension Service is making tour of State. Constructed as part of cooperative program with Connecticut Sheep Breeders' Association, outfit will provide farmers with facilities for control of sheep tick. Extension animal husbandman, in charge of outfit, is making half-day stands in communities throughout State on schedule arranged in cooperation with county extension agents.

KENTUCKY
May 15, 1944

Phenothiazine week.- Wider use of phenothiazine to keep sheep free from worms was stressed during "phenothiazine week" in Kentucky. Representatives of U.S.D.A., of sheep interests in other States, and of meat packers, stockyards, and others interested in livestock industry, joined Kentucky College of Agriculture in educational program to encourage production of better sheep. Meetings were held in various sections, and press gave excellent cooperation. Special attention was given to improving quality of late lambs. Leaflet, More Profit From Late Lambs, issued by agricultural college, sets out 12-point sheep-management program.

Frozen-food locker conference.- More than 200 representatives of locker plants, county and home agents and other educators, attended frozen-food locker conference held at university. There now are frozen-food locker plants in 36 counties. How to freeze fruits, vegetables, and meats, how to prepare them for table, and problems peculiar to the industry were discussed. Circular 398, Storing Foods in Freezer Lockers, has been issued by college.

Food production and preservation.- Food production and preservation program is well under way throughout State. County and home agents are assisted by 40 men and women in encouraging more efficient production in gardens, poultry, dairy, hogs, sheep, and beef cattle. Trained in short courses at university, 41 women are working in every county in interest of food preservation.

Farm labor.- Sixty-one emergency farm labor assistants are helping county agents to bring farmers and workers together. Prisoners of war are being used in counties adjacent to prison camps. State supervisor reports shortage of labor, but believes enough men and boys will be left to produce feed and food asked of Kentucky this year if season is reasonably good. Workers are being found for farmers all over State, and campaign has been launched to recruit boys 14 to 18 years old.

Castor-bean crop.- In Jefferson County 26 4-H Club members sold castor-bean crop for \$786, being paid on basis of \$6 a hundred pounds for beans shelling 70 percent. Although average yield per acre for county was 850 pounds, two boys grew 1,500 pounds an acre.

Home sewing.- Homemakers in 51 counties in Kentucky received instruction in sewing during past year. Unusual interest resulted from patriotic desire to save, and from gasoline rationing, as well as desire to avoid high prices and inferior quality of some ready-to-wear garments offered for sale. Thousands of dollars were saved by 20,000 women reached.

Pig sanitation program.- Farmers using farrowing houses with sloping floors have had unusually good results in saving pigs, according to reports received by college. Best results were obtained when floors sloped approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches to foot, and house was equipped with 12-inch board across lower side, about 10 inches from floor so pigs could get under it for protection from sow. One farmer reported 43 pigs farrowed and 1 pig crushed; another reported only 1 pig crushed in 8 litters; third had only 3 pigs crushed in 14 litters.

Job methods training conference.- Home agents attended series of conferences presided over by Mary Collings of U. S. D. A. on how to do work more quickly and easily. They will pass information on to homemakers' clubs.

News flashes.- Indications are that McLean County tomato crop for canning will be curtailed because of labor shortage. County is in principal tomato-producing section of State.....Warren County farmers plan to produce more pounds of lamb this year than in 1943.....About 600 acres of strawberries will be set in Marshall County this spring. County already has large acreage.....At least 115 WIA members in Hickman will help with farm work this summer.....In Marshall County 35 farmers set 28,000 trees this spring, majority to control erosion.....About 1,000 pounds of fat were turned in for salvage by Mercer County homemakers.....Wayne County 4-H Club girl sold litter of 10 pigs for \$300. They weighed almost 2,000 pounds at 5 months.....Almost 100 percent of farmers in Anderson County are treating plant beds with bluestone-lime mixture; many use 1,000 pounds to acre.

WASHINGTON
May 25, 1944

Farm labor.- Emergency farm labor workers are getting ready for critical month of June. Help of every man, woman, and child will be needed in certain areas of State. Huge fruit set this year means immense thinning task. Processing-pea harvest also starts in June. Green-pea crop alone needs 2,850 full-time workers, men who can stand 10 to 12 hours of heavy labor a day. Thus far only 1,450 Mexicans have been allotted to pea harvest. Prisoners of war, vacationers, youth groups--every possible helper is being recruited to supply 50,000 to 55,000 extra farm workers needed.

Post-war planning.- Progress in developing interest and leadership among local people as to plans for handling resettlement problems has already been made in Thurston, Pacific, and Island Counties. Thurston and Pacific are studying land suitable for future agricultural development and building educational program for guidance of new settlers. Many Army and Navy men who have been in Island County "like it so much they want to come back," and steady number of people have been buying land there. Since some of land is not practical for farming, county agent has warned that it should not be purchased with idea of making living from it. Educational program includes highway signs suggesting prospective settlers check with county agricultural agent before buying.

Livestock show.- Spokane Junior Livestock Show in May was largest in 9-year history of annual event and biggest stock show in which Washington 4-H Club members had ever participated. Of more than 1,000 animals shown by 400 4-H and F.F.A. youngsters from Washington, Idaho, and western Montana, 40 percent were exhibited by Washington 4-H members. Twelve eastern Washington counties were represented, one for first time. Livestock show "previews" in several counties, attended by hundreds of adults as well as club members, were considered especially helpful in wartime livestock-improvement campaign. To help increase wartime meat production, Washington farm boys and girls have been going into "mass production," as evidenced by interest in pens-of-five steer exhibits at show.

Save-the-Food program.- Steering committee is working on plans for program to stop wartime waste on farms. Original Save-the-Food program, greatly expanded to include all farm production, will be in full swing in June.

Food production and preservation.- Staff of emergency assistants in food production and preservation program is nearly complete. Extensive preparations are being made for community food preservation this summer.

Labor-saving equipment demonstration.- Farmers of State are still talking about last winter's labor-saving demonstrations and writing in constantly for blueprints and bulletins. In recent letter to Washington Director Knott, Director M. L. Wilson congratulated him on way in which program had gone over in State. Director Wilson pointed out that attendance of 10,000 people at 23 demonstrations showed extent to which program aroused interest of farm people. State-wide campaign of this kind does not go over without considerable preparation and working together by entire staff. Its success showed what can be done when total resources are applied to specific task.

